



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

SEP 1 2 2006

The Honorable Roger Sampson
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
801 West 10th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1894

Dear Commissioner Sampson:

I am pleased to approve Alaska's assessment system under Title I of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). I congratulate you on meeting this important NCLB requirement.

My decision is based on input from peer reviewers external to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) and Department staff who reviewed and carefully considered the evidence submitted by Alaska. I have concluded that the evidence demonstrates that Alaska's standards and assessment system satisfies the NCLB requirements. Specifically, Alaska's system includes academic content standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; student achievement standards in reading/language arts and mathematics; alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in reading/language arts and mathematics; and assessments and alternate assessments in each of grades 3 through 10 in reading/language arts and mathematics. Accordingly, Alaska's system warrants **Full Approval**. This status means that Alaska's standards and assessment system meets *all* statutory and regulatory requirements for reading/language arts and mathematics.

Please be aware that approval of Alaska's assessment system under NCLB is not a determination that the system complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, and requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Finally, please remember that, if Alaska makes significant changes in its assessment system, the State must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

We have found it a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for your State's approved standards and assessment system under NCLB. I wish you well in your continued efforts to improve student achievement in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Henry L. Johnson

cc: Governor Frank Murkowski
Les Morse